## District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers



The holidays are nearly upon us! Some events are listed below; please refer to the City's web site, www.GoRiverwalk.com, and www.riverwalkae.com/enewsletter for more.

<u>Telephone Town Hall</u> – My meeting is set for **Monday, Oct. 21**<sup>st</sup> at **7 PM**. To participate or listen in, please call 1-855-269-4484 toll free. To listen to audio recordings of the previous Town Hall meetings, go to <a href="https://www.fortlauderdale.gov/TTH/index.htm">www.fortlauderdale.gov/TTH/index.htm</a>.

<u>City Budget</u> – Last month, the Commission adopted the structurally balanced FY 2014 Budget without relying on reserve funds to eliminate deficits or close gaps. This is the seventh consecutive fiscal year that our property tax rate has not increased, and we are among the most affordable cities in Broward County.

<u>Deceased Animal Removal</u> – As of October 1, Broward County is no longer providing the service of removing deceased animals from public roadways. To report a deceased animal on a public roadway, please call the City's 24-Hour Customer Service Center at 954-828-8000 or complete the online <u>Customer Service Form</u>.

**Flood Insurance** – Many structures in the City are located in a "Special Flood Hazard Area," and owners must carry flood insurance to get financing for federally secured mortgages, loans or federal grants used to buy, build or renovate these structures. The City voluntarily participates in the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP's) Community Rating System by going beyond the minimum NFIP standards: The City implements and promotes public information and floodplain management activities regarding flood hazards, flood insurance, and ways to reduce flood damage. This participation helps residents and business owners buy federally backed flood insurance at a 20% discount. See <a href="http://fortlauderdale.gov/hurricane/hurr flood.htm">http://fortlauderdale.gov/hurricane/hurr flood.htm</a> for more detailed information on flooding.

<u>Green Government</u> – On September 21<sup>st</sup>, the City was named the Most Outstanding Green Government by the South Florida Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council. Fort Lauderdale's award-winning initiatives include: 1) creation of the Sustainability Advisory Board; 2) adoption of a Citywide Sustainability Action Plan; 3) the Smart Watts Program; 4) the Green Your Routine volunteer initiative; and 5) the Go Solar campaign. In addition, our 2035 Vision Plan lists sustainable development among the priorities moving forward.

<u>Household Hazardous Waste</u> – As of October 1, the County is no longer providing household hazardous waste collection and disposal services to City residents. We have chosen not to participate in the County's new interlocal agreement due to cost. Instead, we are looking at more cost-effective options, such as future drop-off events. Updates on these options will be provided through our web page and other City communication tools.

<u>Pioneers</u> – We were pleased to nominate sisters Marian and Jean Ready, two of our longtime Croissant Park neighbors, to be among those recognized at the 2013 Broward County Pioneer Day event, set for October 19<sup>th</sup>.

<u>Strategic Plan</u> – We are implementing an innovative, results-focused government culture using a strategy management system to connect planning, budgeting, measuring, and improving. *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2018* connects the dots between the community's long-term Vision and day-to-day operations. For more, see www.fortlauderdale.gov/pressplay. For our Game Plan, see <a href="http://fortlauderdale.gov/documents/annual reports/2013SOTC gameplan.pdf">http://fortlauderdale.gov/documents/annual reports/2013SOTC gameplan.pdf</a>.

<u>Street Light Outages</u> – Responsibility for our street light system is shared by the City, Broward County, and Florida Power & Light. Please help us maintain the system by reporting outages to the City's 24-hour Customer Service Center at 954-828-8000 or via e-mail to fortlauderdale.gov@customerservice. When making your report, please have the street address of the light pole handy, along with the pole number, if known.

## Calendar Items -

- **Christmas Pageant** at First Baptist Church Tickets are now on sale for shows running Nov. 30 Dec. 15! See <a href="http://ChristmasTickets.com">http://ChristmasTickets.com</a> or call 1-888-952-4806.
- Las Olas Art Fair Oct. 19 and 20; 10 AM 5 PM. Free admission; www.artfestival.com; 561-746-6615.
- **Halloween** For a flyer with details on Halloween events, see http://fortlauderdale.gov/halloween/index.htm.
- Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show Oct. 31 Nov. 4; www.showmanagement.com.
- Light Up the Beach Nov. 26. The City's Holiday Lighting Ceremony will be held at 6:30 PM at A1A and E. Las Olas, followed by a Holiday Concert at 7:00 PM at DC Alexander Park, 501 Seabreeze Boulevard.
- Las Olas Sunday Market The market is now open Sundays from 9 AM 3 PM on the plaza at YOLO.

<u>Reminder</u>: My City Hall Office Hours are Mondays from 2 - 5:30 PM and Tuesdays from 9 AM - Noon (in non-Commission weeks). For appointments, please contact MJ Matthews at 954-828-5028 or mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov.